

2004

Town of Lyman 2004 Comprehensive Plan

Lyman (Me.). Comprehensive Plan Committee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs>

Repository Citation

Lyman (Me.). Comprehensive Plan Committee, "Town of Lyman 2004 Comprehensive Plan" (2004). *Maine Town Documents*. 677.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/677>

This Plan is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

TOWN OF LYMAN

2004

COMPREHENSIVE

PLAN

A true copy.

Attest:

Shulya A. Harrison

Town Clerk

Adopted November 2, 2004

2004

TOWN OF LYMAN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

Active Members

Nicholas Armentrout
Katrina Courtney
Mike Gervais
Phyllis MacDonald
Pauline Nadeau
William Single
Paul Soyster
Stewart Stoney
Ted Trainer
Charles Kokernak, Co-Chair
Ed Sanborn, Co-Chair

Associates

Elizabeth Boothby
Steve Marble
Andrea Myers

Selectmen

Roger Bergeron
Norman Hutchins
Ronald Stewart*
Charles Harrison
*term expired 2004

Planning Board

Rodney Hammond
Elizabeth Boothby
Christal Tuttle
John Gagnon
Roderick Tetu
Roger Irving
Clinton Nash

Ordinance Revision Committee

Norman Hutchins, Chair
Roger Irving, Vice-Chair
Asbury Ivey
Richard Caya
Steve Stearns
Maurice St. Clair

Building Inspector/ CEO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	2
<u>POPULATION AND HOUSING</u>	4
<u>ECONOMY</u>	6
<u>MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND SERVICES</u>	7
<u>ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION</u>	9
<u>ENERGY</u>	11
<u>SOLID WASTE</u>	12
<u>EDUCATION</u>	13
<u>LAND USE</u>	17
<u>FISCAL MANAGEMENT</u>	17
<u>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND-Source: Town of Lyman 1980</u> <u>Comprehensive Plan</u>	18

INTRODUCTION

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan of 2004 is an update of the 1980 Comprehensive Plan currently in use by the Town of Lyman. This updated Plan will be a guide for managing Town affairs in the future. This Plan will serve as a legal foundation for the Town Ordinances and Zoning regulations.

The Comprehensive Committee held numerous information meetings, public workshops and mailed surveys to all town residents. Town officers, committees and community organizations were consulted. The intention of the Plan Committee was to gain an understanding of our Town government and seek a consensus of the majority. In all areas, the Committee was sensitive to protect private property rights and the public interest. To the best of our knowledge, the Plan is based on the desires of the majority of citizens.

One of the key findings of the Comprehensive Plan Committee was that the majority of the residents want to maintain Lyman's semi-rural and small town lifestyle. A majority also wants to develop and protect conservation land that will be open to the public. In response to this feedback a Conservation Committee has been formed. Another finding was that Regional Planners project that population trends for York County will have an increase of 50,000 people in the next ten years. Many towns adjacent to Lyman now enforce building caps to limit the number of homes being built yearly. This will increase the pressure on Lyman for increased housing development. Lyman is almost totally residential with a small commercial property ratio. These are some of the considerations the Comprehensive Plan Committee examined in rewriting the Plan of 1980.

Our Municipal Government structure in Lyman is lean. Town Officers and employees responsibilities fill their scheduled time. The Selectmen's duties require a reactive management style to conduct the business of the Town. As a consequence, proactive planning time is limited. In the absence of any Town Officer, existing staff are forced to stretch their capacities to provide full service.

There are more than 3100 voters listed in Lyman. Less than 50 voters have attended some of our annual Town Meetings to determine how over \$3.7 million of tax revenue is to be spent. We have in our community many folks of diverse educational and occupational backgrounds. Lyman needs more citizen participation in our government. Citizens committees cost the town nothing and can contribute a great deal. This Committee encourages fellow citizens to participate in the governance of Lyman. Your votes, tax dollars and your participation will decide what kind of a town Lyman will be.

The 1980 Comprehensive Plan was well designed and has been upgraded to meet the needs of 2004 and beyond. However, not all of the 1980 Plan was implemented after being accepted by the Town Meeting. Therefore, this Comprehensive Plan Committee of 2004 recommends that an Implementation Committee be established to advise and recommend adopting features of this Comprehensive Plan. Including a 10-year review of the plan itself. Implementation is the key to meet the needs of tomorrow.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee would like to thank the Town Officers; organizations and citizens for their suggestions that helped develop this Comprehensive Plan for 2004.

POPULATION AND HOUSING

Broad Goals

1. To encourage a balanced and managed growth.
2. To encourage diversified forms of housing.
3. To provide for a healthful environment.
4. To encourage housing and land use patterns that facilitate conservation of our natural resources.

Policies

1. Recognizing that Lyman is a very desirable community in which to live, work, and play, the Town will provide for periodic review of its policies and ordinances to assure a balanced growth rate.
2. Both urban and country life-styles will be offered by maintaining rural areas.
3.
 - a. Appropriate zoning shall be provided for single home development to maintain the semi-rural lifestyles presently existing in Lyman.
 - b. The Town shall make provision for individual mobile homes to be located on single lots within the same guidelines as single-family dwellings. Consideration should also be given to mobile home subdivisions, which may only be located in areas where natural buffering can be utilized to blend such development into the neighborhood.
 - c. Whereas Lyman residents have indicated a strong desire to maintain and increase conservation areas, subdivision development ordinances should be structured to emphasize cluster subdivision development. Cluster development will create larger tracts of land that will provide a scenic environment, preserve wildlife habitat, and create less road development and maintenance. Clustering will help develop a stronger sense of community and neighborhood. To protect land in perpetuity, a deeded restriction should be employed. Total density in these cluster-developed areas shall conform to existing density patterns established by existing ordinances. Cluster development shall not change the established ordinances for single lot development.
 - d. Areas suitable for new duplex and multi-family housing units shall be identified. The emphasis shall be on units with one or two bedrooms to meet the needs of young adults and the elderly. Such housing units would involve no change in housing density requirements and would be well suited to planned unit and cluster development.

Steps should be taken toward allowing, as a conditional use, the conversion of large single-family homes into two, three, or four-family homes, in order to provide alternative uses for such buildings which are no longer practical or economically feasible for a single family to occupy and maintain provided that existing density patterns are maintained.

4. The Town shall establish land use regulations that promote a balance between tax revenue producing development (such as commercial/industrial), and tax revenue-consuming development (such as residential housing).

With this in mind, the Town shall consider establishing a policy and method to control residential growth in such a way that the municipal tax rate is maintained at a reasonable level.

5. To ensure the general health, safety and welfare of Lyman citizens, policies preventing overcrowding will be a priority. Emphasis on maintaining open space and protecting the environment shall be part of this policy. To accomplish these goals, the Town may, if necessary, enact moratoriums (with time limits), limit or restrict building permits, or establish impact fees.

ECONOMY

Broad Goals

1. *To provide for the economic growth of existing and new businesses, which serve the needs of Lyman residents.*
2. *To ensure that commercial/industrial development will not adversely impact natural resources or the local environment.*
3. *To consider commercial/industrial uses in specified zones, which would help broaden the local tax base and discourage such uses that would not be an economic asset to the community.*

Policy Proposals

1

- a) It shall be the policy of the Town to consider new as well as existing business, commercial and industrial enterprises to serve the needs of local residents. Development shall be permitted only where there is an adequate supply of water and an approved public or private discharge system exists or can be installed. Considerations shall be also given to adequate road access in order to avoid creating traffic hazards, congestion, and all forms of pollution. The Town should establish specific commercial/industrial zones to benefit the Town.
 - b) It is the policy of the Town to permit home occupations as a conditional use. Standards for true "Home Occupations" should be enforced uniformly, and consideration should also be given to establishing a "Limited Business" category of usage in the zoning ordinance for small-scale commercial operations based in the home. An enterprise classified as "Limited Business" would operate according to established performance standards as a "Conditional Use".
- 2 Elected and appointed officials shall consider the cost of meeting increased demands for town services in relation to the increased tax revenues likely to be generated by commercial/industrial development. This does not preclude the town from investing to attract commercial growth.
 - 3 a) Any review of proposed commercial/industrial development shall entail a review of its environmental impact. Uses, which unduly impose on the local environment, shall be prohibited.
b) Routes 111 and Rte 5 offer an ideal location for economic development. Zoning revisions for creation of a commercial zone in this area should be considered.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND SERVICES

Broad Goals

1. *To provide for and support equitable administration of local legislation.*
2. *To encourage municipal policies which will protect and conserve natural resources.*
3. *To maintain an optimum level of services at a reasonable cost.*
4. *To plan and construct municipal facilities which will meet the needs of the community today and in the future.*
5. *To promote active citizen participation in municipal programs, boards and committees.*
6. *To provide efficient and responsive municipal government for the citizens of the Town of Lyman.*

Policies

1. Once the governing body (Town Meeting in Lyman) has formally adopted ordinances and codes, it shall be a basic policy of the community to support the fair enforcement of these regulations to ensure that the mandates of the people are carried out.
2.
 - a. Areas which are wildlife habitats, susceptible to water pollution, prone to flooding, scenic vistas, prime agricultural land, forests and other similar areas shall be given special consideration to preserve natural resources.
 - b. The appropriate municipal programs, boards and committees shall identify areas having high recreational and open space resource value. It shall be the policy of the Town to pursue a consistent, calculated, and far-sighted program of land acquisition for public purposes. The Town should consider establishing of a conservation committee and/or commission for evaluation and preparation of cost estimates for municipal land acquisition as well as an inventory of all non-taxed and unidentified property.
 - c. Where it is not feasible for the Town to acquire lands, owners of such land should be encouraged to consider establishing conservation easements or negotiating agreements to allow conditional public access. A conservation committee and/or commission and/or Land Trust can assist in facilitating, advising and recommending negotiated easements.
 - d. It is recommended that existing public points of access to bodies of water should be maintained and adequately posted. Priorities for acquiring additional access points should be determined and efforts made to secure rights to such access points for public use.

3. a. The Town should make specific its policy of requiring that the developer of a subdivision participate in the provision or expansion of public facilities to service the development where appropriate, including roads, fire stations, water supply, classrooms, etc. on a pro-rata basis, proportionate to the development's needs or impact on the Town.
- b. Standardized dry hydrants shall be installed throughout the Town, where appropriate.
- c. Future subdivisions not served by public water service shall be required to provide fire ponds or other sources of water, and to provide adequate access and turn-around areas for emergency vehicles.
- d. An ongoing program for improving existing mutual aid agreements for police and fire protection between neighboring communities shall be continued and perfected. Supporting and participating in regional programs to benefit the Town shall be promoted. State, County and Federal programs for Town improvements and human services, which impose no unreasonable requirements, shall be explored and initiated.
4. As the Town grows and develops, municipal services will need to expand to meet the demand. Facilities will have to be provided for these required services, along with the requisite planning and management support, which may be on a shared basis.
5. In developing public policy and making decisions affecting the general public, extensive use of the news media, public hearings, town website, town newsletter, and direct citizen involvement shall be utilized to promote an informed public.
6. a. An Implementation Committee should be established to advise and recommend adopting features of this Comprehensive Plan, including a 10-year review of the Plan itself.
- b. Continued financial support to complete the implementation of GIS technology in mapping the Town. This will insure accurate data for private and publicly owned land and infrastructure.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Broad Goals

1. *To promote a safe, equitable, fiscally responsible and efficient transportation system that supports the Town's rural/village pattern of settlement, furthers the Town's economic development goals, and enhances transportation mode choices.*
2. *To support road development only in areas where natural resources and features will not be adversely affected.*
3. *The economic impact of any new road construction shall be a major consideration in the review process prior to public acceptance of such ways.*
4. *Existing and proposed public ways, which aid in the promotion of public transportation and energy conservation, shall have a higher priority level than roads and streets, which do not.*
5. *To support the abandonment of ways which are too expensive to maintain and/or rebuild.*
6. *Consider bicycle or pedestrian safety in any future public road construction and reconstruction or as part of the scoping process in any Maine DOT road reconstruction projects.*

Policies

1. It is a policy of the Town of Lyman to plan for, finance and develop a road and bridge management program that minimizes safety hazards, as well as maintenance and operation cost.
2. The highway system shall be commensurate with existing and projected needs with respect to the natural environment. Natural features shall be protected by limiting the number of new roads that will infringe on these areas. To the greatest extent possible, existing ways will be utilized before permitting new roads that will impose on open space, prime agricultural land, potable ground water supplies (aquifers) and similar areas.
3.
 - a. New road construction by the Town shall consider the cost/benefit ratio relative to the needs of the community, the number of people to be served, and the economic impact such ways will have. The effect on population and housing growth, municipal services, public utilities, school enrollments, and traffic congestion are some of the issues to be addressed.
 - b. Route's 111 and Rte 5 offer an ideal location for economic development. Zoning revisions for creation of a commercial zone in this area should be considered.
4.
 - a. The Town of Lyman should have ordinances specifying requirements for all new and reconstructed roads built in the town. These ordinances shall be strictly enforced. Qualified engineering services will review such design and construction should be considered.

- b. Public transportation within both the community and the region shall be encouraged with particular attention to the needs of the elderly and handicapped as well as promoting energy conservation. For example, the York County Community Action Corporation provides service to the Town of Lyman.
- 5. The Town should consider developing road management strategies. The location of driveways and curb cuts should be located to ensure safety of the roadways.
- 6. The Town should coordinate with the Town of Dayton to develop land use and transportation strategies to make Goodwins Mills a pedestrian and bicycle friendly area. For future Maine DOT projects in the area, the Town should petition Maine DOT to develop pedestrian enhancements such as sidewalks or widened shoulders.

ENERGY

Broad Goals

1. *Conservation of energy shall be a primary goal in dealing with energy problems.*
2. *Long term objectives for easing energy problems shall be given a high priority.*

Policies

1.
 - a. The Town will conduct an energy audit of all public structures in the interest of conservation by retrofitting buildings to minimize energy loss.
 - b. Developments and programs will be reviewed with regard to energy usage and measures taken to reduce the use of energy as much as possible.
2. The Town shall ensure that all property meets all pertinent state health and safety codes and shall adopt comprehensive construction standards, which would also encourage energy conservation.
3. Developments and projects utilizing efficient alternative energy sources shall be encouraged, as well as those that make use of innovative energy saving technology.

SOLID WASTE

Broad Goals

1. *To encourage use of town solid waste facilities and development of policies, which provide for long term usage.*
2. *To adopt only those solid waste plans which promote the maintenance of Natural resources.*
3. *To promote solid waste plans that encourages recycling.*
4. *To promote a regional approach to solving solid waste problems in order to conserve land and save money.*
5. *To annually review the existing solid waste program.*

Policies

1. Any solid waste program entered into by the town shall have term limits, which allows time to prepare and initiate a new plan.
2. Plans shall only be approved where it can be shown that adequate safeguards have been incorporated to prevent pollution and the public health, safety and welfare is protected.
3. The dumping of hazardous waste shall be prohibited, how ever; in knowing this the Town shall have a program for the acceptance and removal of hazardous waste.
4. Recycling of materials shall be an important consideration in any solid waste plan
5. Where it is economically advantageous, the Town will support the regional approach to solving solid waste disposal problems.
6. To assure that a solid waste disposal facility will always be available to Lyman residents, an annual review will be made of the existing Plan.

EDUCATION

Broad Goals

1. *To promote quality education opportunities for all residents.*
2. *To support the Regional School Administrative District (MSAD 57)*

Policies

1. Lyman will support the School District to provide quality education and staff.
2. To represent the Town's interest to the School Administrative District through our elected representatives to the Board of Directors.
3. The Town should strongly support the educational opportunities provided by the Community Library.

LAND USE

Broad Goals

1. *To develop standards for alternative land use, which promote managed growth.*
2. *To emphasize land use which protects natural resources and the environment.*
 3. *To protect agricultural, forest and open space uses from imposing land development.*
 4. *To limit uses of land that has an adverse effect on the community's economic base.*
 5. *To promote compatible development whereby one use does not adversely affect another.*
6. *The Ordinance Review Committee shall amend/rewrite Lyman Zoning to adhere and to conform to the 2004, Town of Lyman Comprehensive Plan.*

Policies

- 1 a. To maintain Lyman's semi-rural settlement pattern with mixed farmland, rural housing along most through-roads, and large-lot homesteads in outlying districts.
 - b. The boundaries and minimum land requirements of each zoning district should be periodically reviewed to determine whether the purposes of each district (as described in the Zoning Ordinance) are being achieved, and whether any changes in those boundaries or land requirements would be in the long-term best interests of the Town.
 - c. To develop varying land use density patterns, which maintain the semi-rural character of the community by adopting critical rural and transitional growth, zones.
- 2 a. Maintaining prime agricultural and valuable forestland capable of economic production shall be encouraged.
 - b. It is the general policy of the Town to encourage only non-structural uses on land susceptible to periodic flooding, as shown on the Flood Hazard Area map prepared by the U.S. Flood Insurance Administration. Agricultural and recreational uses shall be acceptable if they would not worsen conditions during floods.
 - c. Areas to be identified in the Comprehensive Plan and state inventories (such as the Critical Areas Register) as having ecological resource value shall be protected against inappropriate development by placing them in a Resource Protection District. Areas shall be so classified when it has been determined that development would adversely affect water quality or biotic

systems and productive habitats. These areas include, but are not limited to habitats of rare or endangered species, and most swamps, marshes and bogs.

- e. In addition to preventing water pollution and protecting wildlife habitats, it is the purpose of this policy to conserve shore cover, natural beauty, and both visual and actual points of access to inland waters and waterways, (As required under Section 4811, Title 30, of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated) in accordance with the Maine Shore Lands Zoning Act. It is recommended that existing public points of access to bodies of water should be maintained and adequately posted. Priorities for acquiring additional access points should be determined and efforts made to secure rights to such access points for public use.
- 3. Where major development may affect the environment, an impact study shall be conducted to determine the degree of impact. Uses, which unduly impose on the local environment, shall be prohibited.
 - 4. Because most land-use decisions have cost implications for the Town as a whole, Town officials and boards shall consider the costs of meeting increased local tax revenues likely to be generated by major developments. Where such development imposes an adverse economic impact on the Town these uses shall not be permitted.
 - 5. a. Whereas Lyman residents have indicated a strong desire to maintain and increase conservation areas, subdivision development ordinance should be structured to emphasize cluster subdivision development. Cluster development will create larger tracts of land that will provide a scenic environment, preserve wildlife habitat, and create less road development and maintenance. Clustering will help develop a stronger sense of community and neighborhood. To protect land in perpetuity, a deeded restriction should be employed. Total density in these cluster-developed areas shall conform to existing density patterns established by existing ordinances. Cluster development shall not change the established ordinances for single lot development.
 - b. The ability of the land to accommodate proposed development shall be a principle consideration in developing and administering land use regulations with emphasis on:
 - 1) The ability of the soil to support roads, buildings, sub-surface sewage disposal systems and utility mains
 - 2) The susceptibility of the land to periodic flooding
 - 3) The provision and protection of adequate water supplies and
 - 4) The perpetuation of renewable resources
 - c. In evaluating the suitability of soils to accommodate specific types of buildings, roads and utilities, a high intensity soil survey shall be performed in cases where the soil has been rated as "poor" or "very poor" for such uses, as set forth in the "Soil Suitability Guide"
 - d. It shall be the policy of the town to revise its zoning ordinance to provide for wider application of the "Conditional Use" concept, with appropriate performance standards for all non-residential uses. This approach would neither automatically deny nor automatically allow these land uses to be created in those zones. Instead, approval would be conditional upon the proposed land use meeting appropriate "performance standards" (as specified in the Zoning Ordinance). The "Conditional Use" is not a use permitted by right, but only a use permitted after all performance standards are met. Proposed development complying with the performance standards shall be eligible to receive "Conditional Use Permits". This procedure

would prevent incompatible development. At the same time, however, it would help to avoid the disadvantages and inconveniences resulting from relatively rigid zoning.

- e. It shall be the Town's policy to develop performance standards in the zoning ordinance to regulate signs, noises, odors, and flashing of dazzling lights. All new signs shall be in keeping with the character of the town. These regulations may also entail reserving existing trees or small groups of trees and may include criteria for screening unsightly uses, including but not limited to parking lots, rubbish storage areas, solid waste disposal sites, and mineral workings, by hedges, fences, berms or a combination thereof.
- f. Extractive industries (e.g. mining and gravel pits) shall be conducted with proper regard for the environment and neighboring property owners. Any burden, which such extractions place on municipal services or facilities (such as town roads), shall be recoverable from the operating firm. All permits shall require that the land be subsequently restored for some form of beneficial use acceptable to the Town. Toward this end, the zoning ordinance will be amended to include appropriate performance standards for operation and reclamation of such areas shall be enforced.

7 That ordinance and zoning changes proposed by the Ordinance Review Committee have been reviewed and accepted by the Comprehensive Plan Committee as part of the 2004 Town of Lyman Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Town of Lyman

The following report is a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Lyman, Maine. It contains historical sketch of the town, an inventory of the town's natural features and existing land uses, and recommendations on how the town can guard against undesirable growth and how to protect our environment from further degradation. A Comprehensive Plan is an aid in setting priorities to guide the orderly growth and development of the town in the foreseeable future. Planning for a community is not a static thing. As conditions change in the future, this Plan will have to be reviewed and modified or altered as new situations arise, if the best interest of the town and its citizens are to be served.

Historical Background

EARLY HISTORY OF LYMAN (COXHALL 1777)

Lyman, as Coxhall, was incorporated as the thirty-eighth town in Maine, on April 24, 1780. The title to the town was derived from Sagamore Fluellen's deed, by purchase in 1660, to John Saunders, John Bush and Peter Tarbitt, who sold their claim in 1668 to Harlackindine Symonds. He, in turn, conveyed the territory to Roger Haskins and thirty-five others, under whose proprietorship the town was first settled in 1767.

Its present name was chosen in 1803 in compliment to Theodore Lyman, Esq., of Boston, originally of York. Born into the home of a clergyman of that town, he began his career in the village store at Kennebunk. From this simple beginning, he continually widened his interests; he went into real estate, lumbering, shipbuilding, and became a China trader. He was one of the foremost merchants of Boston, and died at the age of eighty-six, leaving a large fortune.

The following story is told of Mr. Lyman: As a trader, he did considerable business with the inhabitants of Coxhall (as Lyman was then called). Mr. Lyman did not like the name, and he made to them his proposition, that if they would change the name to the town of Lyman, he would give them a barrel of West India rum and a bell for the first church, which had a tower. A town meeting was held and it was voted to change the name. The barrel of rum was sent them and drank, but no church had a tower. Many years after, one was built, it was long after Mr. Lyman's death. Some of the old residents remembered the offer and a committee was appointed to go to Boston and interview his son. They saw him, explained their errand, and he gave them a check for \$300.00 to procure the bell.

SOURCE: Town of Lyman, 1980 Comprehensive Plan

The principal business center is Goodwin's Mills, a neat little cluster of buildings in the southeastern part of town, which has borne its present name since 1782. The first saw, grist and rum mills in the town were located here.

One of the earliest conveyances of land is a deed of 100 acres of land in 1753 from Harlackindine Symonds to Richard Lord, then to Samuel Lord and then to William Waterhouse, the old

schoolmaster, who with his family, came to this town between 1764 and 1775. Jacob Waterhouse and his brother William were the sons of Samuel Waterhouse who deserted from an English vessel and swam ashore to this province.

In South Lyman, the daughters of Mr. Wakefield, married Peter Roberts and Joseph Dennett and lived on adjoining farms. Love Roberts, father of Peter, was killed at a barn raising in 1780. Peter, age fourteen, carried on and opened the farm at Robert's Corner.

Alexander Grant took his lot between Kennebunk and Swan ponds in 1774, and his son, Silas, joined him in 1779. Thomas Lord settled north of where the Congregational Meeting House stands. James Lord and Richard Shackley settled two miles north of the Arundel line. Thomas Murphy took up land on the point between the two branches of the Kennebunk River; his father, Patrick, who came with him, had run away from home in Ireland at age twelve.

Gideon Merrill and Robert Swainson were surveyors for the British government, but abandoned that calling at the outbreak of the war and settled in Lyman, where the former became a schoolmaster and prominent citizen. Elections were held at the house of Alexander Grant and other homes at first; and from 1787 to 1830, they were held at the Meeting House, then in a barn for three years, and after which they were called "to assemble around a big rock in front of the Meeting House". This was the Town Meeting Rock until 1835 when the town house was built at the East End of Kennebunk Pond. The town Meeting Rock was broken up to make the wall, which surrounds the burial ground near the church.

A number of Revolutionary soldiers came to the present town of Lyman at the close of the war: Pierce Murphy and John Burbank were among these veterans. The latter was captured by the privateer "Dalton" and carried to England in 1777. In 1779, he was onboard the "Bonne Homme Richard" under John Paul Jones in its action with the "Serapis".

Source: Town of Lyman, 1980 Comprehensive Plan

The Rhoades, Thomsons, Roberts, Hills, Smiths, Warrens, Emmons, Littlefields, Lows and Cuffs were respected citizens of the early times. Along with these names, the following should be noted: Waterhouse, Brock, Ricker, Goodwin-- these names show up in the town records up to the present day. John Low was a leading man in town affairs and was, for many years, Representative to the General Court. Ichabod Dam was another member of the General Court from this town.

The tradition of the town was upheld during the Civil War with sixty-three soldiers joining the Maine divisions, one to the Navy and five to Massachusetts units. Descendants of these families served their country in later wars, served their town, and still live in the community.

Various denominations of churches sprung up in the town-- the Baptist in 1782, the Congregationalists in 1786-87, the Methodist-Episcopal in 1800 and the Free Will Baptist in 1839.

RECENT HISTORIC EVENTS

The quiet of Lyman was interrupted in October of 1947 when a fire, which started in Brownfield, destroyed Lyman. According to former Town Clerk, John L. Elliott, on October 24, 1947, 9/10 of the town was destroyed, including sixty homes, sixty-three cottages, and nineteen people injured.

The aftermath of the fire left our industry completely destroyed; our pine timber gone for at least 200 years, our five ponds with no cottages, and no one bringing money into the town. Forty portable sawmills were erected to salvage millions of feet of burned pine. The U.S. Government provided the town with earth-moving equipment to help rebuild many buildings and roads. It is to the credit of many private individuals that some town property has been replanted to white pine, however, large scale federally funded planting requests were denied and many of our 38.3 square miles of land remained scrub areas. As residence demands are made of this land, it is evident that never again will the "Kings Pine" be harvested here in Lyman.

People working in outside industry since Black October 1948 have supported the economy of the town. The five ponds gradually rebuilt and today provide nearly 60% of our tax base.

Source: Town of Lyman, 1980 Comprehensive Plan

